

Appl. No. 10/634,457
Amdt. dated August 11, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 11, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (New) A wireless lift system for coordinated lifting of a structure and comprising:

- (a) a first lift mechanism and a second lift mechanism;
- (b) each of said first and second lift mechanisms including an elongated vertical guide member, a carriage slidingly engaged with said guide member and adapted to supportively engage a structure to lift and/or lower the structure, an actuator engaged between said guide member and said carriage, a controller coupled to said actuator and enabling selective activation of said actuator to thereby move said carriage along said guide member, and a rechargeable battery coupled to said actuator by way of said controller to thereby selectively provide operating power thereto;
- (c) each lift mechanism including a radio-frequency transceiver coupled to the controller associated therewith to enable wireless communication between controllers of said lift mechanisms; and
- (d) the controllers of said lift mechanisms enabling cooperation of said lift mechanisms by way of said wireless communication between said controllers to thereby enable coordinated lifting and/or lowering of said structure.

Claim 21 (New) A system as set forth in Claim 20 wherein each lift mechanism includes:

- (a) said actuator including a hydraulic cylinder and a hydraulic pump communicating hydraulic fluid to said cylinder under pressure; and
- (b) said rechargeable battery being coupled to said hydraulic pump by way of said controller to thereby selectively provide operating power to said hydraulic pump.

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Claim 22 (New) A system as set forth in Claim 20 wherein:

- (a) said carriage is adapted to engage a part of a vehicle to thereby lift said vehicle.

Claim 23 (New) A system as set forth in Claim 20 and including:

- (a) an additional lift mechanism substantially similar to said first and second lift mechanisms and capable of operation in coordination therewith.

Claim 24 (New) A system as set forth in Claim 20 wherein each lift mechanism includes:

- (a) a height sensor engaged with said carriage, coupled to said controller, and communicating to said controller a height signal corresponding to a location of said carriage relative to said guide member to thereby enable said coordinated lifting and/or lowering of said structure.

Claim 25 (New) A lift system as set forth in Claim 20 wherein each lift mechanism includes:

- (a) a surface engaging wheel rotatably connected to said guide member; and
- (b) a handle connected to said guide member to enable selective manual movement of said lift mechanism upon said surface.

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Claim 26 (New) A wireless lift system for coordinated lifting of a vehicle and comprising:

- (a) a plurality of lift mechanisms, each lift mechanism being manually movable and including an elongated a vertical guide member and a carriage slidingly engaged with said guide member and adapted to supportively engage a vehicle to lift and/or lower the vehicle;
- (b) each lift mechanism including a hydraulic cylinder engaged between said support frame and said carriage, a hydraulic pump communicating hydraulic fluid with said hydraulic cylinder, and a rechargeable battery coupled to said hydraulic pump and selectively providing operating power therefor;
- (c) each lift mechanism including a controller coupling said battery to said hydraulic pump and enabling selective activation of said hydraulic pump to thereby cause movement of said carriage along said guide member;
- (d) each lift mechanism including a height sensor engaged with said carriage, coupled with said controller, and communicating to said controller a height signal corresponding to a location of said carriage relative to said guide member;
- (e) each lift mechanism including a radio-frequency transceiver coupled to the controller associated with said lift mechanism to enable wireless communication between controllers of said lift mechanisms; and
- (f) the controllers of said lift mechanisms enabling cooperation of said lift mechanisms by way of said wireless communication between said controllers to thereby enable coordinated lifting and/or lowering of said vehicle.

Claim 27 (New) A lift system as set forth in Claim 26 wherein each lift mechanism includes:

- (a) a surface engaging wheel rotatably connected to said guide member; and
- (b) a handle connected to said guide member to enable selective manual movement of said lift mechanism upon said surface.

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Claim 28 (New) A method for controlling and powering lift mechanisms to coordinate lifting of a structure and comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a first lift mechanism and a second lift mechanism, each of said first and second lift mechanisms including an elongated vertical guide member, a carriage slidably engaged with said guide member and adapted to supportively engage a structure to lift and/or lower the structure, an actuator engaged between said guide member and said carriage, a controller coupled to said actuator and enabling selective activation of said actuator to thereby move said carriage along said guide member, a rechargeable battery coupled to said actuator by way of said controller to thereby selectively provide operating power thereto, and a radio-frequency transceiver coupled to said controller to enable wireless communication with a controller of another of said lift mechanisms;
- (b) engaging said carriage of each of said first and second lift mechanisms with a structure to be lifted;
- (c) selectively applying electrical power from said battery of each lift mechanism to the actuator thereof to cause movement of the carriage thereof along the guide member thereof; and
- (d) communicating radio-frequency signals between the controllers of said lift mechanisms by way of the transceivers thereof to control selective application of said electrical power from batteries of said lift mechanisms to actuators thereof to thereby coordinate lifting of said structure.

Claim 29 (New) A method as set forth in Claim 28 and including the steps of:

- (a) providing each lift mechanism with a height sensor engaged with the carriage thereof and coupled with the controller thereof; and
- (b) communicating to said controller a height signal corresponding to a location of the carriage thereof relative to said guide member thereof to thereby enable coordinated lifting of said structure.

Claim 30 (New) A method as set forth in Claim 28 and including the steps of:

- (a) providing each lift mechanism with a wheel connected to said guide member and a handle connected to said guide member; and
- (b) manually moving each lift mechanism, using the handle and wheel thereof, to thereby engage the carriage thereof with said structure.

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Claim 31 (New) A method as set forth in Claim 28 and including the step of:

- (a) adapting the carriage of each of said lift mechanisms to engage a part of a vehicle to thereby enable wireless, coordinated lifting of said vehicle using said lift mechanisms.

Claim 32 (New) A method for controlling and powering lift mechanisms to coordinate lifting of a vehicle and comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of lift mechanisms, each of said lift mechanisms including an elongated vertical guide member, a carriage slidingly engaged with said guide member and adapted to supportively engage a vehicle to lift and/or lower said vehicle, an actuator engaged between said guide member and said carriage; a controller coupled to said actuator and enabling selective activation of said actuator to thereby move said carriage along said guide member; a rechargeable battery coupled to said actuator by way of said controller to thereby selectively provide operating power thereto; a radio-frequency transceiver coupled to said controller to enable wireless communication with a controller of another of said lift mechanisms; and a height sensor engaged with said carriage, coupled with said controller, and communicating to said controller a height signal corresponding to a location of said carriage relative to said guide member;
- (b) engaging said carriage of each of said lift mechanisms with respective part of said vehicle to be lifted;
- (c) selectively applying electrical power from said battery of each lift mechanism to the actuator thereof to cause movement of the carriage thereof along the guide member thereof; and
- (d) communicating radio-frequency signals between the controllers of said lift mechanisms by way of the transceivers thereof to control selective application of said electrical power from batteries of said lift mechanisms to actuators thereof to thereby coordinate lifting of said structure.

Claim 33 (New) A method as set forth in Claim 32 and including the steps of:

- (a) providing each lift mechanism with a wheel connected to said guide member and a handle connected to said guide member; and
- (b) manually moving each lift mechanism, using the handle and wheel thereof, to thereby engage the carriage thereof with said structure.